



(From right) Mohd Amin Nordin, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin, Kaag and Maimunah lead the pack on the bicycle lane yesterday. — Picture by Bernama

Cycling — chic mode of transport for KLites

KUALA LUMPUR — Cycling should be promoted among city folks for a healthier lifestyle, said Netherlands Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag.

Taking her country as an example, she said cycling has long become a common mode of transport with 36 per cent of the people listing the bicycle as their most frequent mode of transport on a typical day.

"This high frequency of bicycle travel is

enabled by excellent cycling infrastructure such as cycle paths, cycle tracks within the city and by making cycling routes shorter, quicker and more direct than car routes," she told reporters before the start of the Cycling Kuala Lumpur event in conjunction with World Urban Forum 9 yesterday.

"Today, the Netherlands counts more bicycles than inhabitants and cyclists spend less time in traffic jams and have an improved quality of life."

Also present at the event were Raja

Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Puta Jamalullail, Mayor Tan Seri Mohd Amin Nordin Abdul Aziz and UN-Habitat executive director Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Maimunah said to support the New Urban Agenda in Malaysia, bicycle lanes were recently introduced in Kuala Lumpur aimed at promoting a healthier lifestyle and achieving a lower carbon footprint.

"The bicycle routes not only provide an alternative to people who opt to cycle in the

city centre, but also encourages a network of routes for bicycle tourism which reaches all corners of the city," she said.

"It is also an alternative to complement the public transport system and reduces the use of private cars to minimise pollution."

More than 90 dignitaries, including corporate and government representatives and business associates, used the 1.5km cycling route (blue lane) from the Malaysia Tourism Centre to Kuala Lumpur city centre yesterday. — Bernama

'Bak kwa' intercepted at Woodlands

KUALA LUMPUR — Two attempts to smuggle bak kwa (Chinese sweet pork jerky) in large quantities from Malaysia through the Woodlands checkpoint was foiled by the Singapore border patrol authorities this week.

The republic's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said in its Facebook posting on Thursday that the contraband was found concealed in pastry or cookie packagings since Wednesday.

"The ICA and Agri-Food and

Veterinary Authority of Singapore would like to remind travellers that controlled items like bak kwa are subjected to travellers' allowance from approved countries," the social media post read.

"Livestock, meat and meat products can only be imported from sources that meet AVA's animal health and food safety standards."

According to ICA, the cases have been handed over to AVA for further investigations.

"Currently, AVA has approved 21 countries, including Canada, Netherlands and the United States, for import of pork and pork products to Singapore."

As Malaysia is not among the approved countries, travellers are not allowed to bring meat, meat products and eggs into Singapore.

According to the AVA's website, pork products brought into Singapore for personal consumption must come from the list of 21 countries that have been approved by AVA.

'Malaysia Airlines to be profitable next year'

PETALING JAYA — Malaysia Airlines will likely be profitable by the first quarter of next year, said its chief executive officer Izhmah Ismail.

"The market outlook for the national carrier this year is tough, however, the airline is progressing and is gaining traction," he told a press conference after witnessing the signing of a Training Partnership Agreement between Malaysia Airlines Academy Bhd and the International Air Transport Association yesterday.

"The team knows my aspirations and I am holding all of them tightly to keep working on this year, but the first quarter of next year will be more realistic." — Bernama